

HIGHLAND MAIN STREET MEETING
Highland Town Hall- Highland, Indiana 46322
MARCH 2, 2017 MINUTES

Call to Order

At 6:35 PM, the Highland Main Street (HMS) meeting was called to order by President Dawn Diamantopoulos at Highland Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road in Highland, Indiana.

Roll Call:

The following were present: Board Members Dawn Diamantopoulos, Marie Russo, Lola McKay, Mary Wells, Doug Van Ramshorst and Redevelopment Assistant Lance Ryskamp. Board Members Julie Larson, Mario DeGeorge and Darlene Barron were absent. It was noted that Board Member Marion Case had sent an email of his intention to resign from the Board. Also, present at the meeting were Volunteers Philip McKee, Theresa Pecsek (via phone), Explorer Post member John Zamora and Elizabeth Steele and Annette McKeown of Smalltown Coffee Co.

Election of 2017 Officers:

Dawn suggested that the Board wait until the April Board meeting for elections, to allow the Board members absent to participate.

Minutes:

Marie Russo made a motion, seconded by Lola McKay, to approve minutes from the March 3, 2016, April 7, 2016, May 5, 2016, June 2, 2016, July 7, 2016, September 1, 2016, October 13, 2016, November 3, 2016, December 1, 2016, January 5, 2017, and February 2, 2017 meetings. The motion passed 5-0.

Town Theatre Board:

Dawn reported that the Town Theatre Board had met and decided not to any immediate action on the Board's future.

Explorer's Group

Dawn reported that there was a meeting on February 13th and the post was considering either remaining with the Theatre Board and possibly volunteering to assist with Main Street events and projects, or transferring their charter to Main Street. One of the post's members, John Zamora was present at the meeting and he would be reporting back to Post members.

Highland Rookery

No report

Pop-Up Gallery

Lance suggested that either First Midwest Bank's downtown location on Highway, or Peoples Bank's vacant branch on Cline Avenue were two possible locations to hold pop-up gallery events. The group decided to wait and see whether First Midwest intended to put their vacant downtown branch on the open market, or if they were going to handle the sale internally, before deciding which location should be approached first for an event.

Coupon Program

Philip McKie reported that he met with former Main Street member Bridget De Young, who had started the program several years ago. She gave several contacts that he will be calling in the coming days. He hopes to get a coupon available for one of the remaining high school theater or concert events in May.

Car Cruise

Lance reported that the date for the 2017 Car Cruise will be Saturday, June 3rd, with the rain date being the following day on June 4th. He said the contract with Thunder Road will be before the Redevelopment Commission at their next meeting, and that \$950 in sponsorships have already been obtained for the event. Theresa said she would once again volunteer to help with this year's event.

Festival of the Trail

Dawn suggested that pre-planning meetings on the 2017 Festival begin soon. Lance said that he working on a proposal to use Jewett Street as the location for this year's event, but he will need approval to close down the street on that day.

Façade Improvement Grant

Lance reported that reimbursement for the Corporate Thread project was pending and that there may be a possible new FIG request from the new Vyto's Pharmacy.

Cash Mobs

Dawn suggested that the Board identify possible sites at the next meeting for the first cash mob of the year. Lance reported that a new clothing store, The Annex, had just opened on Kennedy Avenue.

Municipal Parking Lot

Lance said he and Cecile had spoken to John Bach and he was going to try and get funding to re-pave the entire parking lot and that the some of the landscape improvements could possibly be made part of that project. Theresa reported that some heavy equipment may be needed to do the landscaping and that loose asphalt and other debris will need to be cleaned out of the grass area before any plantings.

Poet Laureate

Lance reported that the call for applications for the 2017 Poet Laureate went out February 3rd, and to date there has been one applicant. He said the deadline for applications is March 15th, unless a decision is made to extend the deadline.

Sculpture and Art Tour of Highland

Dawn reported that Julie Larson was going to look to see if any were relevant state art grants for future projects. Lance reported that he had spoken with Randy Simko, who was the sculpture vote winner in the Fall, and he was preparing a pedestal for the winning sculpture. Lance said that the existing kiosk site on Highway Avenue across from Traditions, would be the location for the sculpture's installation, pending the approval of NIPSCO.

Applications for Highland Main Street Board for 2017

Lance reported that there were no new applications for Board members pending, but he did say that he had reached out to most of the downtown restaurants to see if they would be interested in joining the Board, with no response received to date.

Highland Main Street Ordinance

Lance said he forwarded a draft of all of the proposed changes to Town Council President Dan Vassar and Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin, but he did not have any further update on the issue.

2017 Goals

Lance said he re-drafted the goals discussed at the February meeting into a work plan format, favored by Indiana Main Street, involving the four-point Main Street objectives of economic vitality, design, organization and promotion. There was discussion on adding a sidewalk poetry project to the plan. At the end of the discussion, Lola McKay made a motion, seconded by Marie Russo, to approve the Plan of Work as presented, with the addition of the sidewalk poetry project. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion

Elizabeth Steele and Annette McKeown talked about their new coffee roasting business, Smalltown Coffee Co. They said they were hoping to find a permanent Highland location to increase their roasting capacity and eventually open a small café.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.